



Water Resource Areas (Preservation/Conservation Areas)

Purpose and Intent	Management Guidelines	Location Guidelines
<p>Water Resource Areas are integral to safeguarding a sustainable water supply and consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Surface water supply watersheds.• Outcroppings of confined aquifers used for public water supply.• Groundwater recharge areas of other aquifers important as public or private water supply. <p>The purpose of a Water Resource Area is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protect public and private water supply and associated water quality standards and designated beneficial uses established under the Clean Water Act.• Ensure that development on and around water resource areas is minimized through effective land use controls and incentives, and through innovative funding mechanisms to preserve tracts of land that are large and contiguous enough to sustain the water resources.• Ensure that transportation infrastructure in Water Resource Areas meets the needs of residents and resource-based industries but does not undermine sustainable water supply by encouraging incompatible development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are recognized and supported by goals, policies and implementation guidelines in the local comprehensive plan designed to preserve and protect the integrity of the relevant water supplies from encroachment and the impacts of incompatible land uses and associated activities• Are governed by local capital and non-capital plans, policies, ordinances, regulations, and procedures that:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Limit development and its impacts on the quality and quantity of the relevant water supplies commensurate with the existing and planned populations and purposes to be served.▪ Provide adequate safeguards against compromising impacts of activities associated with the existing and allowed land uses in the Water Resource Area.• Limit public facilities and services to the levels appropriate to support existing development in Water Resource Areas but not its expansion beyond limits compatible with continued integrity of the relevant water supplies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recognize existing water supply resources as defined in PlanMaryland.

Water Resource Objectives

A wide variety of conditions exist in potentially important Water Resource Areas, with respect to land uses, housing, economic development, infrastructure, transportation and public services. Ideally, the majority of land in Water Resource Areas is devoted to agricultural, forestry, or other resource conservation compatible uses. In reality, in many places, levels of development and incompatible uses were already established in these areas before their importance and sensitivity for water supply was fully recognized. For the same reasons, Water Resource Areas may occur wholly or in part in the same locations as any of the other PlanMaryland Places or Preservation/Conservation Areas.

Accordingly, desired objectives for land uses, housing, economic development, infrastructure, transportation and public services in Water Resources Areas are designed to address the range of conditions that may exist in these areas. In general, where land uses, development levels or associated human activities are already compromising the integrity of water supply for existing population, public policy for land use in Water Resource Areas is designed to reduce and mitigate for the impacts of incompatible land uses and associated activities to levels that will restore and sustain the integrity of water supply. Where land uses, development levels and activities have not reached compromising levels, public policy is designed to limit and manage development and associated activities to ensure continued integrity of water supply.

Existing	Proposed	Planning/Management Practices
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Comprehensive Plan designations and policies that seek to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Support land uses, development and economic activities compatible with restoration and sustainability of water supply.▪ Discourage levels of land uses, development and economic activities that are incompatible with restoration and sustainability of water supply.▪ Mitigate for impacts of exiting land uses, development and economic activities that have already impacted the integrity of water supply.▪ Preserve and protect environmentally sensitive and ecologically significant lands, waters and resources integral to protection of water supply.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Zoning, subdivision and land development regulations and procedures that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Allow levels of land uses, development and economic activities compatible with restoration and sustainability of water supply.▪ Prevent levels of land uses, development and economic activities that are incompatible with restoration and sustainability of water supply.▪ Preserve and protect environmentally sensitive and ecologically significant lands, waters and resources integral to protection of water supply.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Programs, projects and procedures to mitigate the impacts of exiting land uses, development and economic activities that have already impacted the integrity of water supply.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Other locally proposed: (Please specify)</p>